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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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F. FEARN

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1971

To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.

The time has come again for me to present my annual report on the health of our local community and on the work of the Health Department of the Council.

As on other occasions, I do not attempt to summarise the report in the introduction, apart from expressing the view that the year was, on the whole, one of steady progress in a number of fields.

On the statistical side, I hope that the additional information given in relation to ages of persons dying from various causes will prove of interest to readers of the report.

As regards progress shown, I would refer readers to the sections dealing with the clearance of unfit houses, sewerage arrangements for the various villages and the operation of the incineration plant for destruction of household refuse.

I would again take this opportunity of thanking Members and other Officers of the Council for their continued help and support and also those Officers and others, listed in the report, who have contributed to it.

Rural Council House,
Lichfield.

July, 1972.

C. E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health.

THE
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The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland is a quarterly publication devoted to the study of human evolution, human biology, and human behaviour. It is the only journal in the world which publishes research in all these fields. The Journal is published by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, which is a charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of the study of human evolution, human biology, and human behaviour. The Journal is published in four parts per year, in January, April, July, and October. The Journal is published in English. The Journal is published by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, which is a charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of the study of human evolution, human biology, and human behaviour. The Journal is published in four parts per year, in January, April, July, and October. The Journal is published in English. The Journal is published by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, which is a charitable organization dedicated to the advancement of the study of human evolution, human biology, and human behaviour. The Journal is published in four parts per year, in January, April, July, and October. The Journal is published in English.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The figures given below show the area of the District, the population, the number of occupied houses, the total rateable value of properties of all types and the product of a new penny rate:-

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | 83,527 |
| Population | ... | ... | ... | 59,290 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | ... | ... | ... | 19,091 |
| Total Rateable Value of Properties | ... | ... | ... | £2,275,724 |
| Product of a Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | £23,100 |

The area was, of course, unchanged from the previous year, but the population showed a quite marked increase, partly attributable to natural growth, but mainly due to inclusion of people coming mostly from the Birmingham area, to live in new housing estates in this district. The remaining figures show the same steady increases as in other recent years, bearing in mind the arithmetic adjustment required in comparing the product of a penny rate before and after decimalisation of the currency.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following figures show the principal statistics of births and deaths, as recorded in returns received from the Registrar-General:-

| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 692 | 631 | 1,323 |
| Illegitimate | 21 | 26 | 47 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | 713 | 657 | 1,370 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 23.1

| <u>Stillbirths</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 6 | 14 | 20 |
| Illegitimate | - | 2 | 2 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | 6 | 16 | 22 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births = 16

| <u>Deaths in Infants Under One Week</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 7

| <u>Deaths in Infants Under Four Weeks</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 8

| <u>Deaths in Infants Under One Year</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 12 | 6 | 18 |
| Illegitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Totals | 12 | 7 | 19 |
| | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>—</u> |

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 14

| <u>Deaths (All Ages)</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 286 | 258 | 544 |

Death Rate (All Ages) per 1,000 Population = 9.2

Continuing the comparison made in previous years, it is noted that 49 live and still births out of a total of 1392 live and still births were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in 28, in round figures. This figure is roughly similar to those of other recent years, the relevant figures being one in 35 in 1969, one in 29 in 1968, one in 32 in 1967, one in 34 in 1966, one in 27 in 1965, one in 28 in 1964, one in 25 in 1963 and one in 17 in 1962. The local figure for 1971 was, as is usual in rural areas, considerably better than that for the country as a whole.

Although two stillbirths occurred in illegitimate foetuses and one death in an illegitimate infant, the numbers were too small in each case to enable a really significant comparison to be made with their legitimate counterparts.

The following table shows how the figures relating to the main vital statistics compare with those for the preceding fifteen years:-

| Year | Estimated Population | Live Birth Rate | Still Birth Rate | Neonatal Death Rate | Infant Death Rate | Death Rate (All Ages) |
|------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1956 | 41,250 | 14.3 | 23.2 | 22.0 | 27.1 | 10.9 |
| 1957 | 40,100 | 15.7 | 14.0 | 26.8 | 31.5 | 10.5 |
| 1958 | 38,850 | 15.4 | 22.8 | 13.4 | 23.4 | 10.3 |
| 1959 | 39,500 | 15.7 | 26.7 | 12.9 | 16.1 | 11.4 |
| 1960 | 40,660 | 16.2 | 23.7 | 10.6 | 19.7 | 11.3 |
| 1961 | 40,040 | 17.2 | 18.2 | 18.8 | 26.0 | 12.3 |
| 1962 | 40,710 | 17.9 | 14.9 | 24.7 | 31.6 | 11.5 |
| 1963 | 41,950 | 18.6 | 12.7 | 10.3 | 12.8 | 10.8 |
| 1964 | 42,880 | 20.6 | 18.9 | 11.3 | 13.6 | 10.3 |
| 1965 | 44,730 | 24.4 | 18.9 | 9.2 | 11.0 | 11.6 |
| 1966 | 46,900 | 25.5 | 12.4 | 11.7 | 13.4 | 12.0 |
| 1967 | 49,070 | 26.5 | 12.1 | 18.4 | 23.8 | 10.8 |
| 1968 | 53,180 | 25.0 | 19.0 | 12.0 | 20.0 | 10.6 |
| 1969 | 55,100 | 25.0 | 14.0 | 11.0 | 17.0 | 10.4 |
| 1970 | 55,900 | 23.5 | 14.0 | 13.0 | 20.0 | 11.1 |
| 1971 | 59,290 | 23.1 | 16.0 | 8.0 | 14.0 | 9.2 |

It will be seen that the live birth rate was slightly lower than in the previous year, and appreciably lower than in other recent years, possibly reflecting the reduction which tends to appear after very high figures which follow the occupation of new housing estates by young couples who start families almost immediately after moving to those estates.

The stillbirth rate was slightly higher than in the previous two years, but similar to the average for other recent years.

All death rates were outstandingly favourable in comparison with other recent years.

After the necessary adjustment of local figures, where appropriate, to make allowance for the age and sex constitution of the local population, as compared with the population of England and Wales as a whole, the following table shows how the local figures compare with the national ones:

| Place | Live Birth Rate (Adjusted) | Still Birth Rate | Early Neonatal Death Rate | Perinatal Death Rate | Neonatal Death Rate | Infant Death Rate | Death Rate (All Ages) (Adjusted) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lichfield Rural District | 22.2 | 16 | 7 | 23 | 8 | 14 | 9.5 |
| England and Wales | 16.0 | 12 | 10 | 22 | 12 | 18 | 11.6 |

It is obvious that, even after adjustment for age and sex of the population, the local birth rate is still substantially higher than the national figures. This might possibly be due to the effect of new housing estates, mentioned in an earlier paragraph, occupied by young couples who move there with the intention of starting a family almost immediately after moving. As indicated earlier, this factor tends to lead to a marked increase in the birth rate in the early stages, but becomes progressively less in later years.

The stillbirth rate was higher than the national one, which led, in turn, to the perinatal mortality figure, relating to stillbirths and deaths at under one week, taken in combination, being very slightly above the corresponding national figure.

All the other figures, however, relating to infant deaths were well below the national figures for the same age-groups.

The death rate for the population as a whole, even after adjustment for age and sex of population, was markedly below the national figure, which can be interpreted as indicating a healthy population with satisfactory medical services.

The following table shows the causes of death of persons ordinarily resident in the district, regardless of where the death actually occurred:-

| Cause of Death | Sex | All Ages | Under 4 Weeks | 4 Weeks & Under 1 Year | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | 65-75 | 75 and Over |
|--|-----|----------|---------------|------------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Malignant Neoplasm Buccal Cavity etc. | M | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach | M | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | - |
| | F | 6 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine | M | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| | F | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 7 | - |

| Cause of Death | Sex | All Ages | Under 4 Weeks | 4 Weeks & Under 1 Year | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | 65-75 | 75 and Over |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------|---------------|------------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus | M | 16 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| | F | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Breast | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | 5 | 2 |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus | F | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Leukaemia | M | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms | M | 15 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| | F | 14 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Diabetes Mellitus | M | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 3 |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Other Endocrine etc. Diseases | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Anaemias | M | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Mental Disorders | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| | F | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | M | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| | F | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 |
| Hypertensive Disease | M | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| | F | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 5 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | M | 82 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 12 | 16 | 24 | 28 |
| | F | 46 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 28 |
| Other Forms of Heart Disease | M | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| | F | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Cerebrovascular Disease | M | 31 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 |
| | F | 45 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 28 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | M | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| | F | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 5 |
| Influenza | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | M | 28 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| | F | 35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | 25 | - |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | M | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
| | F | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| Asthma | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System | M | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| | F | 6 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Peptic Ulcer | M | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Appendicitis | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |

| Cause of Death | Sex | All Ages | Under 4 Weeks | 4 Weeks & Under 1 Year | 1 5 | 5 15 | 15 25 | 25 35 | 35 45 | 45 55 | 55 65 | 65 75 | 75 and Over |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----------|---------------|------------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | M | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| | F | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System | M | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue | M | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System | M | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | - | - |
| | F | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Congenital Anomalies | M | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. | M | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality | M | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Symptoms & Ill Defined Conditions | M | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | M | 4 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | F | 3 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| All Other Accidents | M | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| | F | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries | M | 3 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | F | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| <u>TOTAL(ALL CAUSES)</u> | M | 286 | 8 | 4 | 1 | - | 5 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 51 | 87 | 91 |
| | F | 258 | 3 | 4 | - | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 63 | 142 |

Taking the deaths as a whole, it will be noted that 11 occurred at under four weeks, eight more at ages between four weeks and one year, only one between one year and five years, two between five years and 15 years, six between 15 years and 25 years, ten between 25 years and 35 years, 14 between 35 years and 45 years, 37 between 45 years and 55 years, 72 between 55 years and 65 years, 150 between 65 and 75 years and 233 at ages over 75 years.

It will be seen that 383 out of 544 deaths occurred at ages over 65 years, giving a figure of 70%, which compares with an identical figure in 1970 but also with a figure of 63% in 1969.

Once again, it will be noted that male deaths exceeded female deaths in the first year of life and in all age groups from 15 years to 75 years, showing the vastly greater longevity of the weaker sex, a disparity much greater than can be accounted for by the greater industrial and sporting hazards of the male sex. It will be both interesting and helpful when an acceptable explanation can be found for the disparity.

Of the 11 deaths occurring at ages under four weeks, causes of death are set out in the table in respect of eight of these deaths. It is clear, from more detailed information available, that extreme prematurity was the most important factor in the remaining three deaths.

Coming to deaths occurring between four weeks and one year, it will be noted that congenital abnormalities, as a group, constitute an even greater factor in mortality than in the younger age-group referred to in my first paragraph. In the case of those deaths attributed to diseases of the respiratory system, it may be added that aspiration of stomach contents was an important factor in the causation of these fatal illnesses in this age-group.

In older children, it will be noted that leukaemia accounted for the only death between one year and five years and one out of the two deaths occurring between five and 15 years.

In the case of the next age-group, between 15 years and 25 years, it will be seen that three of these deaths were due to various types of cancer. It may be added that, as is commonly the case with cancers in this age-group, these were of types not readily amenable to treatment.

The one death attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in an elderly man and resulted from late complications occurring in a patient who had been infected many years ago. Comparisons with previous years will be made in a later paragraph.

Deaths from the various types of cancer totalled 100, just two more than in the previous year. Of the specified cancers, 19 deaths resulted from cancer of lung and bronchus, a figure slightly smaller than that of the previous two years and equal to the figure for 1968. It is too early to hazard any guess as to whether this indicates any tailing-off in the local incidence of this dreadful disease, bearing in mind that the present figure is still greater than any shown prior to 1968. I have made remarks in earlier annual reports on the well known connection between the smoking habit and the onset of this disease, and do not now feel that I can usefully add to these.

It will be noted that, although 8 deaths resulted from diabetes mellitus, six of these deaths occurred at ages over 65 years.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system, at a figure of 257 deaths in all, were less numerous than in the previous year, but still by far the largest cause of deaths. Most of the deaths resulting from this group of diseases were in the older age-groups, but it will be noted that ischaemic heart disease, or coronary thrombosis, caused 16 deaths, mostly in males, at ages under 55 years and a further 19 deaths, again mostly in males, at ages between 55 years and 65 years. One must again record the connection between this disease and the consumption of tobacco, particularly in the form of cigarettes.

On the negative side, it is noteworthy that only one death was attributed to influenza, and that in a person over 75 years of age. This reflects the fortunate circumstance that the feared epidemic of influenza just did not occur on any significant scale.

Deaths from bronchitis, one of the great killers of the elderly, were on a similar scale to other recent years, with the usual disparity between males and females. It will be noted that about a third of these deaths occurred at ages under 65 years. The reason for the increased incidence in middle-aged males has been mentioned in earlier reports.

It is pleasant to be able to record that the seven deaths from motor vehicle accidents in 1971 compare favourably with figures of 11 in 1970, 18 in 1969, 20 in 1968, 10 in 1967, 13 in 1966 and 18 in 1965. It is to be hoped that the improvement, particularly in younger age-groups, is due to a heightened consciousness of the dangers, and will be maintained.

As regards accidents other than those involving motor vehicles, it may be noted that the number of deaths was similar to the figures of other recent years, and it will be seen that most of the deaths occurred in older age-groups. The exceptions were in a boy who died tragically after a chain of events starting with inhalation of fumes from a domestic cleaning substance and a young woman who died as the result of an accidental overdose of drugs. These two deaths illustrate the hazards arising from apparently ordinary actions.

The most tragic feature of the five suicidal deaths was probably the fact that three out of the five occurred before the age of 35 years and all before the age of 65 years. It is also noteworthy that two of the suicides were achieved by using the fumes from the exhausts of motor vehicles. It would seem that the strain of modern living is still exacting its toll, and that aids to comfort are being used to achieve an unhappy end.

On a more happy theme, it will be noted that, once more, no death was attributed to pregnancy, abortion or childbirth.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, and also, for comparison, the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

| Disease | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measles | 768 | 56 | 674 | 199 | 342 | 311 | 371 | 378 | 129 | 473 | 286 |
| Whooping Cough | 13 | 11 | 6 | 27 | 6 | 22 | 14 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| Scarlet Fever | 15 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 21 | 25 | 15 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Acute Meningitis | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Bacillary Dysentery | 9 | 21 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 16 | 16 | 27 | - | - | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | 6 | 18 | 4 | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Infective Jaundice | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 17 | 17 | 19 |
| Acute Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Tuberculosis | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

The number of cases of measles was relatively large for what might have been anticipated to be the non-epidemic year in the biennial cycle, regarded as characteristic of this disease. The majority of the cases were, however, in the first quarter of the year, and almost all in the first half. It is obvious that the cases occurring in 1971 were, in fact, the latter end of the outbreak in 1970, which occurred mainly in the second half of that year. The effects of the national vaccination scheme, commenced in 1968, are not likely to be apparent until the next outbreak of measles occurs, but it is already apparent that cases of measles appear to be occurring mostly in older children, who missed vaccination, rather than in younger age-groups.

The incidence of whooping cough, although slightly higher than in the previous two years, was again very low in relation to population, and can be regarded as a very satisfactory result of the vigorous immunisation programme carried out against this disease. The absence of any cases of diphtheria, tetanus or poliomyelitis can be attributed to the same programme, as a combined vaccine is now usually used to protect against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough in infancy, with poliomyelitis vaccine being given, by mouth, at the same times and booster doses also being given at appropriate intervals of time.

The figures for scarlet fever can also be regarded as highly satisfactory, and as confirming that, in the case of this disease, control can be effected without the need for immunisation against the disease.

The number of cases of acute meningitis was slightly larger than in the previous year. All occurred in young children under five years of age. Two of the cases occurring at different times, and in different parishes, were diagnosed as bacterial in type, although the organism could not be identified in either case. The other two were considered to be of viral origin. These cases occurred in neighbouring families, and within a short interval of time. Laboratory investigation was undertaken, but did not lead to identification of the precise virus involved, or to any conclusive evidence as to a relationship between the cases. Precautions were advised as regards delay in admission of a family contact to hospital for a non-urgent operation and temporary cessation of child-minding duties by another family contact. All four patients made a good recovery. No spread of infection occurred.

The one case of bacillary dysentery occurred in a child of four years, who was severely affected, but recovered quickly. Routine precautions were advised, in order to minimise risk of transference of infection. No further cases were reported.

The number of cases of food-poisoning was slightly larger than in any other recent year, and it would appear that holidays abroad are playing an increasing part in the incidence of food poisoning in this country, as two of the six patients almost certainly contracted their infections, not in any way related to one another, while holidaying abroad. In one of these, the possibility of cholera infection had to be, and was, excluded. A third patient also contracted infection on holiday, but in this case the infection occurred in this country. Of the other three cases, two occurred as a family outbreak, involving husband and wife. Routine precautions were taken in all cases, including one where there was a professional food handler in the household. Fortunately, all the illnesses cleared up quite quickly, without any patients or contacts becoming "carriers" of infection.

The number of cases of infective jaundice was slightly greater than the figures for other recent years. A notable feature of the incidence of this disease during the year was that more than half of the notified cases were in Hill Ridware, mostly among children attending the local school. Prophylactic inoculations were arranged by the County Council for the remaining children at the school. No further cases occurred. It is a reasonable presumption that the action taken was responsible for the control of what can be quite a serious infection, particularly in older members of families who became involved.

It will be seen from the table that only one new case of tuberculosis was notified during the year, and it was recorded in an earlier paragraph that one death occurring during the year was attributed to tuberculosis. It may be added here that the new case, of the pulmonary type, occurred in a patient who was a known contact of tuberculosis infection, while the death resulted from late complications of an old pulmonary infection in a man aged 70 years.

The following table shows how these figures compare with those for earlier years:-

| Year | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1954 | 17 | 20 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | - | - |
| 1955 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| 1956 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 1957 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 1958 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| 1959 | 8 | 8 | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - |
| 1960 | 5 | 5 | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | - |
| 1961 | 5 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1962 | 5 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| 1963 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 1964 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| 1965 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1966 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1967 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 1968 | 4 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| 1969 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 1970 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 1971 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |

The figures show very clearly the vast improvement effected in the control of the disease by energetic tracing of contacts, early treatment with modern drugs and by helpful surveillance of those suffering from infection. Arrangements relating to these matters remained as outlined in previous reports.

ANTHRAX

As in each of the previous two years, one notification was received of suspected anthrax infection in an animal. Bacteriological examination, however, revealed that this infection was not present.

As in other recent years, no infection, actual or suspected, was notified in a human being.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Facilities at the County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories in Stafford continued, as in earlier years, to function in a satisfactory and helpful way.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Facilities for patients suffering from infectious diseases continued to function adequately, although they did involve travel, usually to East Birmingham and Moxley Hospitals, some distance outside the district.

In the case of maternity patients, facilities continued to be adequate for all patients with medical or strong social indications for hospital admission, but not for those patients desiring hospital confinement as a matter of personal preference.

The position of elderly chronic sick persons requiring admission to hospital appeared to be reasonably satisfactory, at least as compared with many other districts, as admission of patients with urgent need was usually subject to only relatively slight delay.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action for compulsory admission to hospital was found necessary during the year.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

In continuance of the policy of recent years, the Council made financial grants to voluntary organisations, in the different parishes, accepting responsibility for the provision of meals and recreational facilities to elderly members of the community, thus greatly enhancing, at a modest cost to public funds, the social contacts of a group known to benefit from such contacts.

Financial provision was also made, by the Council, in conjunction with the County Council, for continued support of the meals-on-wheels service provided for a limited number of elderly persons in Burntwood, Hammerwich, and Whittington Parishes, and for an extension of the service, as visualised in my last report, to Alrewas Parish. It is clear that the service is fulfilling a very useful function, and that it is much appreciated by those benefiting from it.

FOOD

As in previous years, details of inspection of food premises and investigation of complaints relating to allegedly unsound food will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report.

I am indebted to Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health for the following information relating to samples of milk collected in the district by the County Council in its capacity as Food and Drugs Authority:-

| Place of Collection | Results of Examination | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Untreated | | | | Pasteurised | | | |
| | Methylene Blue Test | | Brucella Abortus Ring Test | | Methylene Blue Test | | Phosphatase Test | |
| | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Negative | Positive | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Streets | 70 | 4 | 75 | 1 | 104 | - | 107 | - |
| Schools | - | - | - | - | 38 | - | 40 | - |
| Hospitals, Homes, S.C.C. Premises, Pte. Schools etc. | - | - | - | - | 14 | - | 14 | - |

It will be seen that the results in pasteurised milk were entirely satisfactory but not quite so satisfactory in untreated milk. It may be added that, so far as methylene blue tests, for cleanliness, are concerned, action lies with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. I would also add that, in the case of the positive ring test, which suggests but does not prove presence of organisms of brucella abortus infection in milk, the milk in question came from outside the district, and action therefore lay with the local authority concerned.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. James Lamont, Engineer-in-Chief to South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which now supplies water to all parts of the district, has very helpfully provided me with the following detailed information relating to local water supply arrangements:-

- The water supply during 1971 was satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- The supply to Lichfield Rural District Council is derived from eleven pumping stations which supply other areas as well as the rural district.

Regular and frequent samples are examined both bacteriologically and chemically from all stations and where treatment is installed, bacteriological examinations of the raw waters are also carried out.

Regular samples are examined from the service reservoir and repumping station at Gentleshaw, as well as from the various quality control taps and hydrants in the area.

52 samples from Gentleshaw Reservoir and 49 from the repumping station were all free from coliform bacteria.

Quality control tap samples were obtained from:-

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Alrewas | 12 |
| Burntwood | 7 |
| Chase Terrace | 8 |
| Clifton Campville | 12 |
| Edingale | 12 |
| Elmhurst | 10 |
| Fradley | 13 |
| Hamstall Ridware | 10 |
| Hill Ridware | 10 |
| King's Bromley | 9 |
| Little Aston | 12 |

All the tap samples were free from coliform bacteria.

Samples were examined from hydrants at:-

Elford (Hydrant at end of long distribution system).
Whittington (Supply to Barracks).

12 samples from Elford and 13 from Whittington were all free from coliform bacteria.

Owing to the number of sources of supply and the relatively large area of distribution, wide variations in chemical composition of the supplies were found. In 1971, the average total hardnesses of the various locations were:-

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|-----|---------|
| Chase Terrace | 138 | parts | per | million |
| Clifton Campville | 178 | " | " | " |
| Fradley | 261 | " | " | " |
| Hamstall Ridware | 142 | " | " | " |
| Little Aston | 245 | " | " | " |

Typical analyses of these five points are attached.

- c. Only two of the supplying stations contain any significant amounts of naturally occurring fluoride. These are Chilcote and Seedy Mill, the average contents for 1971 being 0.3 p.p.m. and 0.16 p.p.m. respectively.
- d. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all the tap samples examined being free from any significant quantities of lead.
- e. Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations, but this is largely precautionary. In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected fittings or structure is carried out and special apparatus and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and found satisfactory.
- f. There are no houses supplied from standpipes in the Rural District. At the 31st December 1971, 18,334 houses were supplied from the Company's distribution system with an estimated population of 3.07 persons per house.

In view of some controversy during the year as to possible ill-effects from drinking relatively soft water over long periods of time, it may be noted that none of the samples had a hardness of less than 100 parts per million, and may be considered to vary from "slightly hard" to "hard". No concern need therefore be felt in relation to this matter, even if the possible connection between consumption of soft water and ill-health were to be finally proved.

The same satisfaction may be felt in respect of lack of plumbo-solvency, a liability to dissolve lead from lead piping, and in relation to the freedom from lead contamination of the samples tested.

As regards fluoride content of local water, the position is much less satisfactory, in view of the fact that only two of the supplying stations supply water with any significant amount of natural fluoride, while even these two waters contain much less than the optimum figure of one part per million, required to produce teeth capable of standing up to the sugar-containing and starchy foods which we now eat in such large quantities. It remains true, however, as stated in previous reports, that no progress is likely to be made in correcting the deficiency, in view of opposition in other parts of the Company's supply area, until the Government takes the necessary powers to require water undertakers to supply water with an adequate fluoride content.

HOUSING

The Housing Manager has again been kind enough to supply me with the following figures relating to applicants for council dwellings and rehouseings effected during the year now being reported on:-

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Applicants at 1st January 1971 | ... | ... | 721 |
| (485 tenants, 211 lodgers and 25 caravan dwellers). | | | |
| Applicants rehoused in new dwellings in 1971 | | | 56 |
| Applicants rehoused in relets during 1971 | ... | | 194 |
| Applicants at 31st December 1971 | ... | ... | 637 |
| (430 tenants, 183 lodgers and 24 caravan dwellers). | | | |

Of the 250 families rehoused in 1971, 41 were rehoused from houses categorised as unfit for human habitation and a further nine families from caravans. All these figures were somewhat lower than the corresponding figures of the previous year, when it was possible to rehouse 72 families in houses previously occupied by the R.A.F. at Fradley.

The figure of 41 families rehoused from unfit houses in 1971, compares with figures of 74 in 1970, 29 in 1969, 73 in 1968, 35 in 1967, 17 in 1966, 56 in 1965, 25 in 1964, 14 in 1963 and 61 in 1962. It will be seen that figures have varied considerably from year to year, depending quite largely on the completion of dwellings on various housing estates in different years.

The following table shows the statutory action taken by the Council during 1971 in relation to houses deemed to be unfit for human habitation:-

| Property | Action |
|---|--|
| 4, 6, 18 and 20, Baker Street, Chasetown | Demolition Orders, 15th January, 1971 |
| The Cottage, Padbury Lane, Burntwood | Undertaking Accepted, 15th January, 1971 |
| 4 - 10 (even Nos.) Chorley Road, Boney Hay | Clearance Order, 26th February, 1971 |
| 62 and 64, Main Street, Shenstone | Undertaking Accepted, 26th February, 1971 |
| 34 - 40, (even Nos.) Elder Lane, Burntwood | Undertaking Accepted, 26th February, 1971 |
| 32, Cannock Road, Burntwood | Undertaking Accepted, 26th February, 1971 |
| Huddlesford Cottage, Huddlesford | Undertaking Accepted, 8th April, 1971 |
| Speedwell House, Trewern Drive, Chasetown | Undertaking Accepted, 8th April, 1971 |
| 1 and 2, Brook Cottages, Chorley | Undertaking Accepted, 8th April, 1971 |
| 134 - 140 (even Nos.) High Street, Chasetown | Clearance Order, 25th June, 1971 |
| 146, Main Street, Alrewas | Undertaking Accepted, 25th June, 1971 |
| 152, Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace | Undertaking Accepted, 15th October, 1971 |
| 122, High Street, Chasetown | Undertaking Accepted, 15th October, 1971 |

The total of 27 houses in respect of which statutory action was taken in 1971 can be compared with figures of 115 houses in 1970, 37 in 1969, 28 in 1968, 20 in 1967, 22 in 1966, 28 in 1965, 28 in 1964, 55 in 1963, 37 in 1962, 25 in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. It will be noted that this gives a total figure of 596 houses in the period since 1955, when clearance of unfit houses really got started again after the acute shortage of houses of the immediate post-war period began to abate sufficiently to enable attention to be given to the vast number of houses which had deteriorated during the war and post-war years, to a point where they could no longer be regarded as fit for human habitation.

It would appear that almost all the houses known, or believed, to be unfit for habitation have now been dealt with, but the position is now being reviewed in an effort to determine whether this is indeed the true picture.

It is hoped that this review will also give information as to the number of houses which, although not unfit, are seriously lacking in basic amenities and in other respects. This information should give an indication of the number of houses requiring improvements, with or without the grants available from the Council, in appropriate circumstances, for this purpose. The survey will cover all houses, whether owned by the Council or by private individuals, and the results of the survey will be sent to the Department of the Environment in due course, together with an indication of the progress the Council would hope to see made, over the years, in the improvement of individual houses.

So far as the Council is concerned, as owner of houses, good progress has already been made in the modernisation of its stock of pre-war houses, as indicated in the following statement prepared for me by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:-

MODERNISATION OF PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES

The Rural District of Lichfield have some 800 pre-war Council houses, the earliest dating back to 1900 but the majority being built between 1920 and 1938. During the last few years a number of improvements have been carried out to some of these dwellings but no comprehensive modernisation scheme was undertaken until November 1970. The Council then decided that all pre-war Council houses were to be fully modernised in accordance with requirements for the Standard Grant of a fixed bath and wash hand basin in a bathroom, hot and cold water supplies to bath, wash hand basin and sink, an inside W.C. and a satisfactory food store. In addition, the following amenities were added: the electric light and power installation to Parker Morris standards, modern fireplace and back boiler with an efficient hot water cistern and radiators in the kitchen, dining room, landing and one heated towel rail in the bathroom. Where the walls of kitchens and larders were faced in brickwork, they were to be plastered. A sink unit was to be installed with a proper sequence of worktops to sink and cooker.

At the present time 230 dwellings have been completed in two contracts and work in respect of a further 30 dwellings has been completed by the Council's Direct Labour Organisation and work is proceeding on 17 houses in one contract. A contract for the modernisation of 156 dwellings is at present waiting Ministry approval and further contracts for the modernisation of the remaining 330 dwellings are being prepared.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

(Prepared by Mr. K. Burkinshaw, C. Eng., F.I.Mun.E., M.Inst., H.E.,
Engineer and Surveyor)

At the majority of the sewage treatment works throughout the Rural District the final effluent has been of a reasonable standard, and, on the whole, has complied with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission, with the exception of the Alrewas/Fradley works. The Council's programme for modernising existing works has been completed, and capital expenditure thereon has amounted to in the region of 1½ million pounds. However, due to the considerable amount of development that has, and is continuing to take place in the larger villages, further extensions of the sewage treatment works will be necessary in order to maintain effluents complying with the standards laid down by the Royal Commission.

ALREWAS - These works are heavily overloaded, but, due to the high rate of infiltration into the sewerage system, a reasonably satisfactory effluent is produced although this does not conform to the River Board's standards.

A contract is to be let towards the end of 1972 for the construction of extensions to the Alrewas Works, and for the sewerage of Fradley Village. This contract includes for the provision of two pumping stations at Fradley to pump the sewage from this village to the Alrewas Works. The contract should be completed in 1974.

ARMITAGE AND LONGDON - The sewage treatment works situated at Armitage deals with the drainage from the parishes of Armitage-with-Handsacre and Longdon. The effluent from these works is reasonable, but does not yet comply with the standards laid down by the River Board. The works have been operated on a double filtration system, as far as the limited capacity of the temporary pumping station will allow, and work is proceeding on the construction of a new pumping station, which will enable all flows to be dealt with on the double filtration system, when the works should produce a high standard of effluent. Wedge wire clarifiers have been installed in the other three humus tanks.

BURNWOOD - The final effluent from this works continues to be satisfactory, conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards. Due to the considerable amount of development taking place in the area, work has commenced on the planning of extensions to cope with this ever increasing flow. Initially, additional primary and secondary sedimentation tanks will be provided, together with extra drying beds to deal with the sludge.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - This works is considerably overloaded, but due to the fact that some years ago the works was converted to operate on the alternating double filtration system, it continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent. Planning of extensions to the plant has commenced.

COLTON - All the units are now, following the increase in flow to the works, in operation, and a satisfactory final effluent to the Trent River Authority standards is being produced.

CURBOROUGH AND ELMHURST - Following the laying of the new foul sewer, the flow to the works has been reduced due to the exclusion of infiltration water. However, the works continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent.

DRAYTON BASSETT - Wedge-wire clarifiers have been installed in the humus tanks, and the works now produces a final effluent conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards.

EDINGALE - Due to the small flow at present being received at these works, only part of the units constructed are in operation. The works is producing a reasonable standard of effluent.

ELFORD - The final effluent discharge continues to conform to the Trent River Authority's standards.

FAREWELL AND CHORLEY - Sewage from this area is now pumped to the Burntwood Sewage Treatment Works.

FAZELEY - Sewage from this area is dealt with at Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works, the sewage discharging into the main trunk sewer in Watling Street, and passing under the canal into the Tamworth Borough.

The pumping stations in general are satisfactory, although one specialist plant may be ultimately replaced.

FRADLEY - The plant dealing with the new council houses continues to operate satisfactorily, and produces a final effluent conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards. The sewerage system of the village in general is unsatisfactory, and it is proposed to deal with this within the new scheme for Alrewas.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE - Due to the present low flow, not all the works units in operation. However, the works produces a satisfactory final effluent.

HARLASTON - Two new sewage pumping stations serve this village, pumping the sewage to Edingale for treatment.

HINTS - The final effluent discharged from this works continues to be satisfactory, conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards.

HOPWAS - The final effluent discharged from this works continues to comply with the Trent River Authority's standards.

KING'S BROMLEY - The new sewerage system for the village has been completed, and sewage is now pumped to the Lichfield City Council Curborough Works for treatment.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - This works continues to be seriously overloaded, and an unsatisfactory effluent is produced. Installation of a Bio-disc unit to deal with the overload is in progress.

SHENSTONE - All units are now in operation, wedge-wire clarifiers have been installed in the humus tanks, thus dispensing with the sand filters, and the standard of effluent being discharged is improving.

STONNALL - This works continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards.

LITTLE ASTON - The sewage treatment works is situated at Little Aston, and deals with the drainage from part of the Aldridge/Brownhills Urban District, and the Borough of Sutton Coldfield. Excellent results are still being maintained from this works, the effluent being of a very high standard.

STREETHAY - The final effluent from this works is satisfactory, and conforms to the Trent River Authority's standards.

SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON - Grass plots have been installed at this works, and all the effluent discharged from the humus tanks is pumped onto these plots, giving tertiary treatment. The standard of the final effluent being satisfactory.

WALL - The sewage from the village is pumped to Burntwood for treatment.

WHITTINGTON - This works continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent conforming to the Trent River Authority's standards.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of this Parish which is sewered are quite good, the sewage being dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works.

WEEFORD - There is no change in the sewerage conditions existing in this Parish.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1971

To the Chairman and Members
Lichfield Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure to present my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year ended 31st December 1971.

In the middle of the year we received the resignation of our Pupil Public Health Inspector and the only Clerical Assistant in the Department. Several weeks passed before replacements were obtained. I must make the comment that it is only on such occasions that one realises the importance and the significance of the work that is undertaken by junior members of staff.

As will be seen from the report problems arose in the refuse collection service following the introduction of a bonus scheme based on Work Study principles. Most of these problems are now sorted out and the service is operating satisfactorily.

Happily I can report that the disposal of refuse was, for the first time in many years, undertaken with complete satisfaction. The incineration plant has operated with the success I felt was always possible and it is true to say that, probably for the first time in my career with this Council, there was not a single complaint from any resident of the district regarding nuisance arising from the disposal of refuse.

In all other aspects the work of the department was maintained at a high standard of performance and I extend my thanks to the members of the staff who have given me their whole hearted support during this year.

G. LEEDER

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Rural Council House,
LICHFIELD.

August, 1972.

INSPECTIONS

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made by public health inspectors to the various classes of premises etc:-

| VISITS AND INSPECTIONS | NUMBER |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Housing Visits | 455 |
| Improvement & Conversion Grants | 630 |
| Caravan Sites | 91 |
| Air Pollution | 58 |
| Noise | 29 |
| Food & Drugs | 127 |
| Food Hygiene | 789 |
| Slaughterhouses | 863 |
| Factories | 232 |
| Civic Amenities | 267 |
| Offices & Shops Act | 565 |
| Drainage | 547 |
| Refuse | 51 |
| Disinfestation | 182 |
| Water Supply | 95 |
| Infectious Diseases | 96 |
| Petroleum Spirit | 296 |
| Scrap Metal | 4 |
| Animal Boarding Establishments | 10 |
| Miscellaneous | 189 |
| TOTAL | 5,576 |

Complaints and Notices

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| No. of complaints received | ... | 406 |
| No. of nuisances detected as a result of investigation of complaints and routine duties | ... | 380 |
| No. of informal notices served | ... | 629 |
| No. of statutory notices served | ... | 66 |
| Nuisances abated as a result of formal and informal action | ... | 309 |

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April 1971 - 31st March 1972

(a) Refuse Collection

As indicated in my report for 1970/71 a bonus scheme based on Work Study principles replaced the incentive bonus scheme which the Council had operated for a number of years. The new scheme came into operation in July 1971, and for a long period the service given to the public can only be described as chaotic. The timing of the commencement of this scheme was unfortunate as it coincided with the main annual leave period of the employees, and with the re-arrangement of crews that took place, several vehicles were seriously short of labour with a consequent loss of efficiency. However, in subsequent months the service improved and has since been operating to the satisfaction of the Council.

From an entirely administrative point of view it seems to me that Work Study, as applied to the problem of refuse collection, did not necessarily provide a more efficient service, because it seemed to generate an attitude of antipathy amongst the employees and therefore, their work was undertaken with a sense of restriction to the principles laid down by Work Study. The passing of time since the inception of Work Study has ironed out the misconceptions that arose at the beginning between management and employees, with a resultant improvement in the overall service now being operated as compared with previous years.

(b) Refuse Disposal

As mentioned in previous annual reports the incineration plant has caused many unhappy problems in the disposal of household refuse, but this year I am able to record that this project has been an unqualified success.

The plant itself is of a design based upon a Beehive type of automatic stoker patented by the Morse Boulger Co. of America. It provides for the handling of 400 tons of domestic refuse per week on a 16 hour/5 day week with a rating of 5 tons per hour.

In the first 6 months of operation many difficulties were experienced by the contractors in securing and maintaining the optimum combustion temperature of 900°C. During this period of trial and tribulation it became very evident that a major modification in the design of the plant was necessary.

In practice, it was found that the high ash content of the refuse being fed to the furnace was creating a "blanket" effect which seriously inhibited the combustion process and caused extensive "clinkering" in the furnace. Discussions were held with the contractors and it was agreed that they would undertake all necessary modifications approved by the Council, entirely at their own expense.

The modifications that were agreed included the provision of a rotary screen to be constructed at a point between the refuse reception pit and the "charging" doors to the ignition chamber. This would allow the ash content of the refuse to be largely removed before combustion took place. The amount of ash removed by the rotary screen varies between 18% - 32% of refuse depending upon the time of year. These "fines" contain a small amount of putrescible material but the degree of this is such that this material can, with justification, be considered innocuous and can be tipped without creating any nuisance. These modifications, together with other ancillary works allied to the provision of the rotary screen, necessitated the closing down of the plant in May 1970. In February 1971, the modifications were completed and the plant recommenced operations.

The inclusion of the rotary screen proved an immediate success and after a few weeks operation, during which time the various automated units of the plant were adjusted to provide optimum operational conditions, the commissioning tests were carried out. The results proved acceptable and the plant was finally handed over to the Council for full operation by their own employees in March 1971.

It is significant that the plant can be operated over a 16 hour/5 day week by a total of only 10 employees and can effectively deal with all the refuse collected by the two Lichfield authorities having a total population of over 80,000 inhabitants. I would express my appreciation to the Supervisor and his staff for their hard work which has ensured the successful operation of this plant during the period under review and which has produced the following statistical information.

During the year 1st April - 31st March 1972, the following amount of refuse was dealt with at the plant:-

| | | <u>Tons</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Lichfield Rural District Council | ... | 13,950 |
| City and County of Lichfield | ... | 5,941 |
| Trade Waste | ... | 250 |
| | Total | <u>20,141 tons</u> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Assuming a density of 4 cwts per cu. yd | = | 100,705 cu. yd. by volume. |
| Screenings from rotary screen taken to tip | = | 5,600 tons, approx. 14 cwts/yd ³ ... |
| Residue ash from incinerator taken to tip | = | 6,070 tons, approx. 18 cwts/yd ³ . |
| Total volume of screenings plus residue | = | 15,500 yds ³ . |
| Volumetric reduction of refuse | = | 6.5 : 1 |
| Total ferrous metal salvaged | = | 854 tons or 4.25% of refuse input. |

The following costs are based on provisional figures supplied by the Treasurer.

| | | |
|--|-----|---------------|
| Annual repayment on capital (Debt Charges) | ... | £29,000 |
| Running costs | ... | £40,600 |
| Income (metals) | ... | £ 2,600 |
| Annual weight of refuse | ... | 20,000 tons |
| Gross cost of incineration | ... | £3.48 per ton |
| Nett cost of incineration | ... | £3.35 per ton |
| Capital cost of incineration | ... | £1.45 per ton |
| Gross running costs of incineration | ... | £2.03 per ton |
| Nett running costs of incineration | ... | £1.90 per ton |

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

(a) Disposal of Bulky Refuse

This service, first instituted in 1968, enables residents, upon request to the Health Department, to arrange for the removal and disposal of bulky household items which are of a nature that cannot be collected by means of the normal house refuse collection service. The following table shows the extent to which the service has been utilised during the year:-

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| Beds, mattresses, prams, cots, chairs and seats | ... | 836 |
| Washing machines, spin dryers, wringers and coppers | ... | 187 |
| Bicycles, lawn mowers, rollers and wheelbarrows | ... | 347 |
| Three-piece suites, wardrobes, tables and other furniture | ... | 560 |
| Radios, pianos and televisions | ... | 85 |
| Fires, radiators, boilers, sinks, baths and cisterns | ... | 203 |
| Carpets, linoleum, dustbins and metal coal bunkers | ... | 176 |
| Doors, windows and sheds | ... | 131 |
| Cookers, refrigerators | ... | 218 |
| Other items and general refuse including garden refuse, tins, wood, metal, boxes, paper, ladders, etc. | | 1,260 |
| Total number of items collected | | 4,023 |
| Total number of collections made | | 1,811 |

Since the first complete year of operation of the service in 1968, the number of items collected has increased by almost 500%. This year's total is almost double that of the previous year and the service is greatly appreciated by the ratepayers of the district.

Due to the heavy demands on the vehicle and manpower available for the service, however, some discretion has had to be used over certain types of material to be collected in order to prevent disruption of the service for the majority, in order to cater for the needs of a minority. In particular, this principle has applied to requests for collection of builder's rubble as a result of property repairs or alterations, since the collection and disposal of this type of material was proving to be difficult and time consuming. In most cases the problem arises as a result of the unwillingness of contractors to carry out their obligation to dispose of such material after the completion of works and householders were advised to contact the builders concerned in order to arrange for this to be done. Alternatively, they were advised of the tipping facilities that were available, should they be able to make their own transport arrangements.

(b) Abandoned Rubbish

Despite the tipping facilities and refuse collection services available, the number of instances of indiscriminate dumping of rubbish on the roadside verges and other land within the Rural District appears to be on the increase. Almost invariably it was noticed that the type of rubbish abandoned could easily have been dealt with by the Local Authority, had the persons responsible taken the trouble to contact the Department in order to make suitable arrangements. In the majority of cases, it has proved impossible to trace the offenders but following detailed investigations 15 prosecutions were taken in the Magistrate's Court. Of these, 14 cases were proved and 1 dismissed as a result of insufficient evidence.

The total fines imposed amounted to £130 and costs of £124.40. I would point out that although the maximum fine which could be imposed by the Magistrates is £100 for a first offence, the average fine amounted to £9.50 which, in my opinion, does not appear to be a sufficiently effective deterrent against this objectionable practice.

(c) Abandoned Vehicles

During the year 26 vehicles were dealt with under the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1968. This figure represents a slight increase over the previous year, a trend which I hope will not continue. It has not been possible, however, to institute proceedings in respect of these abandonments, principally because of the difficulties of tracing ownership, due to removal of registration marks and secondly, because a number of the vehicles appear to have been abandoned by itinerants who have proved impossible to trace.

I would again like to express my appreciation to the Police Authorities for their valuable assistance in dealing with matters under the above Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council's Rodent Officers made a total of 1,959 visits during the year in connection with the eradication of rodents. This represents a slight decrease of 108 visits compared with those made the previous year. The table below outlines the work carried out by the two Rodent Officers:-

Summary of all Rodent Disinfestation Works Carried Out by the Department During 1971

| Class of Premises | Domestic | | Business | | Contracts | Agricultural | Local Authorities |
|--------------------------------|----------|------|----------|------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Infestation | Rats | Mice | Rats | Mice | Rats & Mice | Rats | Rats |
| No. of Infestations Dealt With | 184 | 84 | 23 | 15 | Regular Treatments | 4 | 19 |
| No. of Visits Made | 858 | 225 | 94 | 30 | 531 | 24 | 209 |
| No. of Points Laid | 1961 | 575 | 552 | 185 | 2474 | 234 | 1490 |
| Weight Poison Used (lbs) | 344½ | 28 | 97 | 8½ | 491 | 44 | 288 |
| Estimated Kill | 1909 | 734 | 370 | 138 | 5332 | 198 | 1371 |
| No. of Bodies Found | 256 | 159 | 37 | 62 | 195 | 34 | 44 |

| | | |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|
| Total number of infestations | | 329 (excluding contract work) |
| Total number of visits made | | 1,959 |
| Total number of baiting points laid .. | | 7,469 |
| Total weight of poison used | | 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 22 lbs. |
| Total estimated kill | | 10,052 |
| Total number of bodies found | | 789 |

In addition to the above, 138 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to all classes of premises, in an examination and advisory capacity, including the testing of drains, associated with infestations.

The Contract Scheme continued to provide an invaluable service to the industrialists and farmers availing themselves of it, and ensures that regular visits are made in order to detect and remedy any signs of infestation.

During the year the Department provided an extensive service in order to deal with miscellaneous infestations such as wasps, bees, beetles, fleas, ants, earwigs, etc. not necessarily required by the provisions of the Act but nevertheless proving to be of considerable assistance to the householders of the district. In this connection 44 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors in addition to those made by the Rodent Officers.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

During the year practically all factory premises within the District received one or more visits from the Public Health Inspectors. All the factories and workplaces inspected, utilised mechanical power and as a result the only aspect of the Factories Act 1961 administered by the Local Authority was concerning the provision and maintenance of suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for the employees as required by Section 7 of the Act. Generally, the standards maintained were found to be satisfactory and those contraventions which were revealed have largely been remedied without the need to resort to statutory action. The tables below give details of inspections and contraventions found and remedied:-

| Premises | Number on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | Nil | - | - | - |
| Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 130 | 221 | 14 | - |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | 15 | 11 | - | - |
| TOTAL | 145 | 232 | 14 | - |

The table set out below shows the defects found and action taken as a result of the inspection carried out:-

| | Number of Cases in which Defects were Found | | | | Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted |
|--|--|----------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness | - | | - | | - |
| Overcrowding | - | | - | | - |
| Unreasonable temperatures | - | | - | | - |
| Inadequate ventilation | - | | - | | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | - | | - | | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | | | - | Nil | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 14 | 10 | Nil | 4 | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 14 | 10 | - | 4 | - |

Outworkers 8

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(a) Registrations and Inspections

During the year 33 premises were newly registered with the Authority. Although some of these registrations were as a result of spontaneous action by the employers concerned, the majority of them were following preliminary enquiries made by the Public Health Inspectors. In general, employers seem largely unaware of their obligations to register under the Act.

A large number of routine inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year and as can be seen from the following table almost all premises received at least one general inspection during 1971:-

| <p align="center"><u>Table A</u> <u>Registrations and General Inspections</u></p> | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Class of Premises</u> | <u>Newly Registered Premises During Year</u> | <u>Total Registered Premises</u> | <u>No. of Premises Visited Once or More in Year</u> |
| Offices | 4 | 35 | 32 |
| Retail Shops | 19 | 174 | 169 |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses | 5 | 15 | 15 |
| Catering Establishments, Canteens | 5 | 41 | 41 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | - | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 33 | 267 | 259 |
| No. of visits of all kinds to Registered Premises | | | 565 |

Table B
Analysis by Workplace of Persons Employed
in Registered Premises at End of Year

| <u>Class of Workplace</u> | <u>No. of Persons Employed</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Offices | 430 |
| Retail Shops | 523 |
| Wholesale Departments, Warehouses | 367 |
| Catering Establishments open to the Public | 264 |
| Canteens | 22 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | 14 |
| Total | 1,620 |
| Total Males | 648 |
| Total Females | 972 |

(b) Operation of the Act

During the year informal notices were served on 66 premises for a total of 162 contraventions of the Act. By comparison the figures for 1970 were 114 and 331 respectively. The considerable reduction in contraventions is due to the fact that the complete survey and inspection work carried out in the preceding two years has resulted in most premises being brought up to a more acceptable standard. It is not envisaged, therefore, that it will be necessary to apply the same emphasis on this aspect of the work in future years in order to maintain the standard which has now been achieved. The detailed analysis of contraventions is as follows:-

| Section | No. of Contraventions found | | Section | Number of Contraventions found | |
|---------|-----------------------------|----|---------|--------------------------------|-----|
| 4 | Cleanliness | 19 | 13 | Sitting facilities | 1 |
| 6 | Temperature | 9 | 14 | Seats (sedentary sorkers) | - |
| | Thermometer | 26 | 15 | Eating facilities | 3 |
| 7 | Ventilation | 5 | 16 | Floors, passages and stairs | 17 |
| 8 | Lighting | 1 | 17 | Exposed parts of machinery | 2 |
| 9 | Sanitary Conveniences | 6 | 20 | Hoists and Lifts | 4 |
| 10 | Washing facilities | 10 | 24 | First Aid | 21 |
| 12 | Clothing Accommodation | 3 | 50 | Abstract of the Act | 35 |
| | | | | TOTAL | 162 |

It can be seen from the above statistics that the most common contraventions were failure to provide an abstract of the provisions of the Act, failure to provide thermometers in order to check the standard of heating on the premises and failure to provide a suitable first aid kit, contraventions which also proved to be the three most common occurrences in 1970.

(c) Accidents

During the year only two accidents were notified in accordance with Section 48 of the Act. The first involved a telephone engineer who slipped and fell whilst working at catering premises, sustaining a broken bone in his right foot. Investigation and examination of the floor surface revealed that it was in a satisfactory condition and the accident appeared to be due to human error only.

The second accident occurred to an employee working in a rubber products warehouse, when a bundle of 12' lengths of rubber hose, weighing approximately 4 cwt. fell from a storage pallet onto his shoulder, resulting in severe bruising. The company concerned were requested to fit to the pallets, vertical intermediate supports, in order to contain this type of product in a secure condition.

The fact that only two accidents were reported during the year may be an indication of the safety consciousness of employers and employees or may reflect some neglect on the part of the employers to carry out their statutory obligation to notify the occurrence of accidents to the Authority. However, employers are always reminded of this obligation when routine inspections are made.

(d) Prosecutions

No prosecutions were instituted during the year for contraventions of the Act, since it was found that employers generally were fully co-operative in remedying deficiencies at their premises, without the need to resort to statutory action.

HOUSING

The Public Health Inspectors made a total of 1,085 visits and revisits in connection with all aspects of housing work.

(a) Housing Act 1957

Houses dealt with by means of statutory action under the above Act have already been referred to in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

(b) Housing Act 1969

During the year 53 applications were received for Qualification Certificates under the above Act. Of these 7 were granted, 28 were refused and 18 are still in abeyance pending the completion of necessary works in order to enable the Authority to grant the certificate.

The form of application for the certificate advises owners that they should ensure that the property is in a fit condition and is provided with the standard amenities before application is made. Regardless of this, it can be seen from the above figures that a large majority of the houses were either lacking in amenities or in such a poor condition that no alternative was possible other than refusal. It is hoped that in future, owners will endeavour to ensure that the properties are to a satisfactory standard before application is made, in order to minimise the wastage of time and endeavour which now occurs as a result of these futile applications.

(c) Housing Repair

During the year informal notices were served on the owners of 29 houses in respect of housing defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts. Of these, 13 properties were satisfactorily repaired before the end of the year and, in addition to these, 8 notices from the previous year were complied with, securing the repair of a further 8 properties. Comparison with previous reports reveals that there have been fewer complaints involving disrepair during 1971. I feel that the decrease in the number of complaints can largely be attributed to the fact that landlords are now more willing to bring the houses to a reasonable standard of repair in order to enable them to take advantage of the Qualification Certificate procedure under the Housing Act 1969 with its resultant financial rewards.

" ————— "

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

With effect from the 1st January 1971 the Public Health Department took over the complete administration of the improvement grant procedure from the Engineer & Surveyor.

The knowledge of the impending transfer of this function, being known well in advance, made it possible to closely examine procedural and administrative problems and as a consequence a completely new system was introduced which has, without doubt, greatly reduced the time lapse between receipt of applications and final approval. In fact the system has been praised by the Department of the Environment, who have taken detail with a view to its introduction to other local authorities.

630 visits were undertaken during the year for the purpose of advising applicants in respect of improvement grants. This compares with 137 visits in 1969 and 378 in 1970. In view of the fact that prior to January 1971 visits were purely of an advisory nature and without any subsequent administrative involvement I need not stress the enormous burden of additional work that has resulted since the transfer of duties.

| | Standard | Discretionary |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| No. of applications received | 50 | 131 |
| No. of applications approved | 50 | 131 |
| No. of applications refused | - | - |
| No. of dwellings improved | 21 | 88 |
| Amount paid in grants | £5,602.12 | £36,902.55 |
| Average amount paid per grant | £ 202.22 | £ 595.20 |

The above tables do not, of course, give a true reflection of the overall improvement schemes inaugurated during the year, a total of 231 sets of documentation being forwarded to intending discretionary applicants during 1971, with a considerable number of these being received for assessment in the 1972 period.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No new applications were received for caravan sites during the year and there are now a total of 26 sites in operation within the District, 19 being residential sites, with provisions for a total of 131 caravans and 7 being holiday and recreational sites with provision for 416 caravans and 12 chalets.

Comparison with the figures for 1970 will reveal that the total number of sites in operation is now 26 as opposed to 27 for that year. This is because the site licence and planning consent for one residential site expired on the 31st December 1970 and was not subsequently renewed. However, the owner of the site in question continued to allow the land to be used for caravan occupation and in consequence of this it was necessary to take proceedings in the Magistrate's Court for contravention of the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960, in that the site was operated without a site licence being in force. The land owner concerned was fined a total of £75 with £25 costs for contravening this legislation.

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THEATRES AND CINEMAS

During the year 15 applications were received for the issue of "Occasional Licences" for the use of premises for the production of stage plays. In each instance the premises were inspected by the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Brigade and his recommendations incorporated into the Licence Conditions. No contraventions of these Conditions occurred.

One licence was granted in accordance with the Cinematograph Acts 1909 and 1952 for the continued use of the one cinema operating within the District, together with the licence authorising cinematograph exhibitions for children.

In respect of the administration of the above Acts, I would like to express my appreciation to the County Fire Authority for their continued advice and assistance.

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SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

During the year, five existing registrations were renewed upon expiration of the three year period of licence and one was deleted as a result of failure to make renewal application. Three new certificates were issued and at the end of the year a total of 22 registrations were in force. There were very few complaints in respect of registered premises where, in general, trade appears to be satisfactorily conducted and as a result it was necessary to make only four visits to such premises, during the year.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

There were 118 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit issued during the year.

At least one general inspection was carried out at each licensed installation and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory, relatively few contraventions being noted. The contraventions that did arise were remedied by the licensees without the necessity of the institution of legal action.

However, legal proceedings were instituted under the Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations 1957 against a delivery vehicle driver whose negligence whilst delivering petrol to a garage resulted in the spillage of approximately 50 gallons of petroleum onto the forecourt and forecourt drains. The driver had attempted whilst in the process of filling one tank, to move his vehicle to another tank location resulting in fracture of the delivery hose and consequent leakage. The driver concerned was fined a total of £25 upon conviction at the Magistrate's Court.

During the year the decision was taken to refuse renewal of licence of one garage premise in the district, due to the licensee's inability to comply with the Petroleum Regulations without carrying out substantial structural alterations to the premise. Up to the present time no alterations have been carried out and the licence is still withheld.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation to the Chief Fire Officer and Fire Prevention Officers of the Staffordshire County Fire Brigade, for their continued advice and assistance during the year.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat Inspection

The number of animals slaughtered during the year at the 8 licensed slaughterhouses was 92,521. This represents an increase of 13,500 animals over the previous year, that is accounted for by an additional 5,500 pigs, 2,000 sheep and 1,000 bovine animals being slaughtered.

The daily inspection duties continued to be carried out by the authorised Meat Inspector, but a considerable amount of overtime is still necessary to maintain a full inspection service, and the Public Health Inspectors assisted in this on a rota basis.

Once again there was no recorded instance of a bovine animal being affected with tuberculosis, an indication of the success of the tuberculosis eradication scheme. Tuberculosis of the avian type affected 51 pigs, that is .23% of those slaughtered as compared with 17 pigs and .01% for the previous year. This type of tuberculosis is, however, of lesser importance, since it is not communicable to man and its effects, therefore, are purely economic. Cysticercosis was detected in one bovine animal only, and the carcass concerned was subjected to refrigeration before release for sale.

The total amount of meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption was 26 tons 17 cwts 3 qrs 23 lbs. This represents a decrease of approximately 25% compared with the previous year's figures although as mentioned above the number of animals slaughtered has shown a considerable increase.

The following tables give details of the numbers of animals slaughtered during the year and the condemnations resulting from inspection.

| 1971 | CATTLE | CALVES | PIGS | SHEEP AND LAMBS | GOATS |
|---|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Carcases inspected | 9,115 | 225 | 22,720 | 60,450 | 11 |
| <u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> | | | | | |
| Whole Carcase Condemned | 26 | 7 | 17 | 57 | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 771 | 11 | 1,145 | 5,330 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 8.74% | 8.00% | 5.11% | 8.91% | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | 51 | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease | - | - | 0.23% | - | - |
| <u>Cystercosis</u> | | | | | |
| Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - |

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

| <u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</u> | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Tons | Cwt | Qrs | Lbs |
| CATTLE : Carcase meat | 8 | 8 | 1 | 10 |
| Offal | 5 | 5 | 2 | 11 |
| CALVES : Carcase meat | - | 6 | 0 | 16 |
| Offal | - | - | 3 | 19 |
| PIGS : Carcase meat | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Offal | 1 | 14 | 3 | 11 |
| SHEEP : Carcase meat | 1 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Offal | 8 | 14 | 2 | 2 |
| | 26 | 12 | 0 | 27 |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | |
| PIGS : Carcase meat | - | 5 | 2 | 24 |
| Total weight of meat and offal condemned | 26 | 17 | 3 | 23 |

(b) Other Foods

Condemnation certificates have also been issued in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

| | <u>Tons</u> | <u>Cwts</u> | <u>Lbs</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Cooked meat and meat products | 1 | 11 | 46 |
| Canned meats | | | 72 |
| Other canned foods | 1 | 1 | 43 |
| Fish (fresh) | | | 35 |
| Fruit and vegetables (fresh) | 6 | 15 | 45 |
| Frozen foods | | 9 | 60 |
| Cereals | | 1 | 41 |
| Preserves | | 1 | 1 |
| Confectionery | | 1 | 74 |
| Other foodstuffs | | 1 | 52 |
| Total | 10 | 1 | 21 |

The amount of fruit and vegetables condemned during the year will be seen to be exceptionally high but this is largely accounted for by the condemnation of a large consignment of bananas to a warehouse in the district following a dock strike which occurred during the year. Due to the delay at the port involved, much of the consignment was found to be unfit for human consumption on arrival at the warehouse premises.

(c) Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958

Each of the 8 private slaughterhouses within the District received quarterly inspections made in conjunction with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Certain contraventions of the above Regulations were found but I have received the fullest co-operation from the slaughterhouse owners in securing the completion of the necessary remedial measures, in order to maintain the premises in a satisfactory condition.

(d) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Many routine inspections were made to food premises in the District and a total of 789 visits and revisits were made during the year.

The inspections revealed the existence of 429 contraventions of the Regulations and of these, 336 had been rectified at the end of the year. Although the number of contraventions detected was higher than for 1970, it must not be concluded from this that the situation regarding hygiene in premises within the District has in any way deteriorated. Indeed the opposite has been the case and considerable improvements of the general standards has been achieved over the years. It is evident, however, that these standards cannot be maintained or improved upon without regular visits being made to the premises and continuing pressure being applied to the traders concerned.

In general, a good degree of co-operation has been received from the traders with regard to the carrying out of works and I have not found it necessary to resort to statutory action during the year in order to achieve the required results.

Tabulated below are details of the inspections made and contraventions found and remedied at premises in the District during the year:-

| | No. of Contra- ventions found | Contraventions Rectified |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>Sink provided for washing food and equipment</u> | | |
| (a) Inadequate quantity of hot water | 14 | 8 |
| (b) No sink provided | 12 | 2 |
| (c) Sink Defective | 3 | 2 |
| (d) In room communicating with water closet | - | - |
| 2. <u>Wash-Hand Basins</u> | | |
| (a) Inadequate quantity of hot water | 13 | 8 |
| (b) No wash-hand basin provided | 18 | 11 |
| (c) Defective | 2 | 2 |
| (d) No soap, towels, nailbrushes provided | 20 | 15 |

| | No. of Contra- ventions found | Contraventions Rectified |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3. <u>Foodrooms</u> | | |
| (a) Structure in state of disrepair etc. | 90 | 78 |
| (b) In need of redecoration | 56 | 47 |
| (c) Communicates directly with sanitary convenience | - | - |
| (d) Furnishings utensils and equipment dirty or defective | 33 | 24 |
| (e) Food exposed to risk of contamination | 12 | 7 |
| (f) Inadequate lighting and ventilation | 1 | 1 |
| (g) No proper storage for outdoor clothing etc. | 5 | 2 |
| (h) Accumulations of refuse and miscellaneous rubbish | 10 | 8 |
| (i) Inadequate facilities for preparation and storage of food | 4 | 2 |
| 4. <u>Sanitary Accommodation</u> | | |
| (a) Inadequate, defective, dirty or otherwise unsatisfactory | 52 | 49 |
| (b) No handwashing notices displayed | 20 | 17 |
| 5. Evidence of smoking | 4 | 4 |
| 6. Unhygienic practices discovered | 11 | 11 |
| 7. Drainage defective | 2 | 1 |
| 8. No first aid equipment provided | 36 | 28 |
| 9. Inadequate or unsatisfactory refuse storage | 6 | 5 |
| TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS | 429 | |
| TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS REMEDIED (TO DATE) | | 336 |

(e) Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

The regular inspection of food vehicles and stalls operating within the District continued during the year. Some contraventions of the Regulations did arise but these were remedied informally without recourse to legal proceedings.

(f) Food and Drugs Act 1955

There were 16 complaints from the public regarding unsound foodstuffs or foodstuffs containing foreign substances. Of these 11 resulted in the institution of legal proceedings, following which fines and costs totalling £296 were imposed. In the remaining instances the manufacturers concerned were advised of the nature of the complaints and warned that future instances might result in proceedings being taken. Details of the complaints and resultant action are given below:-

| Food | Nature of Complaint | Action Taken |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Vanilla Slices | Mouldy | Legal procedure £10 Fine with £11 Costs |
| Bottle of Milk | Contained fruit fly lava | Legal procedure £20 Fine with £15 Costs |
| Bottle of Milk | Contained vegetable matter | Legal procedure £15 Fine with £10 Costs |
| Tin of Strawberries | Contained grass and mould | Legal procedure £10 Fine with £13 Costs |
| Tin of Soup | Contained a Caterpillar | Legal procedure £25 Fine with £18 Costs |
| Potato Crisps | Contained a mouldy potato | Legal procedure £15 Fine with £15 Costs |
| Pork Pie | Mouldy | Legal procedure £10 Fine with £10 Costs |
| Sausage Roll | Mouldy | Legal procedure £10 Fine with £11 Costs |
| Bottle of Milk | Contained sand and cement | Legal procedure £20 Fine with £15 Costs |
| Pork Pie | Contained rodent hair and insect parts | Legal procedure £25 Fine with £18 Costs |
| Loaf of Bread | Mouldy | Legal procedure Case Dismissed |
| Trifle Sponge | Contained Insect Lava | Strong warning to manufacturer |
| Loaf of Bread | Contained iron rust | Strong warning to manufacturer |
| Bottle of Milk | Contained burnt milk | Strong warning to manufacturer |
| Tin Stewing Steak | Contained piece of metal | Strong warning to manufacturer |
| Bottle of Milk | Contained piece of elastic | Strong warning to manufacturer |

(g) Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967

Regular weekly visits were made to the one poultry packing station operating within the District.

Details of the numbers of birds processed and resulting condemnations are given below:-

| | Total | Turkeys | Chickens | Hens | Ducks |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|----------|-------|--------|
| No. of birds slaughtered | 22,726 | 230 | 8,734 | 9,108 | 4,654 |
| No. of birds condemned | 103 | 1 | 24 | 75 | 3 |
| % Condemned | 0.40% | 0.43% | 0.27% | 0.82% | 0.064% |

Total weight condemned :- 2 cwts. 103 lbs as follows:-

| Class | Mareks (lbs) | Ascites (lbs) | Trauma (lbs) | Poorness (lbs) | Cropbound (lbs) |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Chickens | 37 | 4 | 17 | 20 | 3 |
| Hens | 3 | 41 | 8 | 104 | 7 |
| Ducks | - | - | 5 | 8 | - |
| Total Weight (lbs) | 40 | 45 | 30 | 132 | 10 |

Comparison with the condemnation details for 1970 shows that there has been a considerable reduction in the number of condemnations which previously resulted from mareks disease. In 1970 457 lbs of poultry were rejected because of this disease, compared with only 40 lbs. during 1971. This drastic improvement has been brought about by the implementation of a vaccination programme, carried out at the producers premises, against the infection.

